



APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

JUNE
NO. 364

DETECTIVE COMICS

STARRING

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

12¢

FOOTPRINTS
LEADING UP
THE WALL-
ENDING IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
CEILING!

THE **GETAWAY GENIUS**
GAVE US THE SLIP AGAIN!
BUT HOW--?



INFANTINO +
ANDERSON

MATCH WITS WITH THE **DYNAMIC DUO** AS THEY TRY TO SOLVE--
"THE **CURIOUS CASE OF THE CRIME-LESS CLUES!**"

WIN THIS FULL-SIZE GEMINI SPACECRAFT



REVELL'S GEMINI SWEEPSTAKES

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Winners will be selected after June 1, 1967. All entries become the property of Revell, Inc. and none can be returned. Judges' decision final. Contest subject to local, state and Federal laws, and void where prohibited. Revell employees, employees of distributors, dealers or their immediate families are ineligible.



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IN THE HEADLIGHTS
OF THE BATMOBILE--
ON THE FLOOR OF
A WAREHOUSE --
ALONG THE WALLS
AND CEILING OF A
MANSION--WERE
CLUES FOR BAT-
MAN AND ROBIN
THAT SEEMINGLY
ADDED UP TO --
NOTHING!
MATCH WITS WITH
THE DYNAMIC
DUO AS THEY MAKE
SOMETHING OUT
OF NOTHING, IN...

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CRIME-LESS CLUES!



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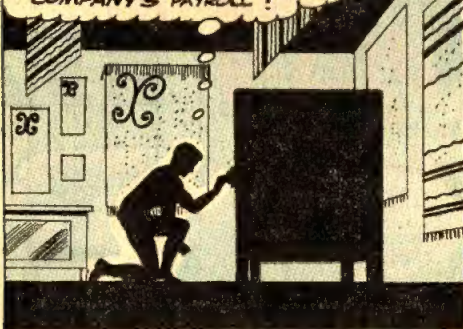
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SOFT LAUGHTER ACCOMPANIES EVERY CLICK OF A TURNING SAFE DIAL IN A **GOTHAM CITY** BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT...

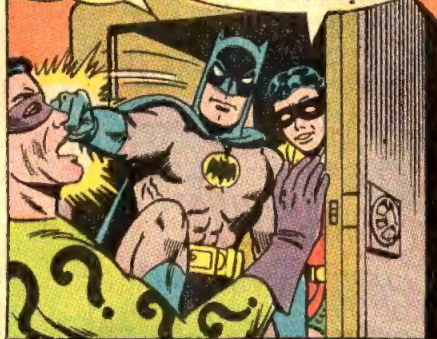
HA! HA! THERE'S THE LAST TUMBLER FALLING! NOW TO OPEN THE SAFE DOOR AND HELP MYSELF TO THE **FLUFFY TOWEL COMPANY'S** PAYROLL!



BUT--AS THE SAFE DOOR SWINGS OUTWARD...

SURPRISE! WE SOLVED YOUR RIDDLE, **RIDDLER!**

"WHAT GETS WETTER THE MORE IT DRIES?" WAS A TRICKY ONE! BUT THE ANSWER HAD TO BE-- A TOWEL!



SO WE WAITED FOR YOU IN THE BIGGEST TOWEL COMPANY IN **GOTHAM CITY--** AND HEY? WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

RIDDLE ME THIS-- WHEN IS A FACE NOT A FACE? WHEN IT'S A FALSE-FACE-- LIKE THIS FOAM-RUBBER MASK I WORE AGAINST JUST SUCH A SNEAKY ATTACK AS YOU MADE ON ME, **BATMAN!** IT ABSORBED YOUR PUNCH VERY NICELY!



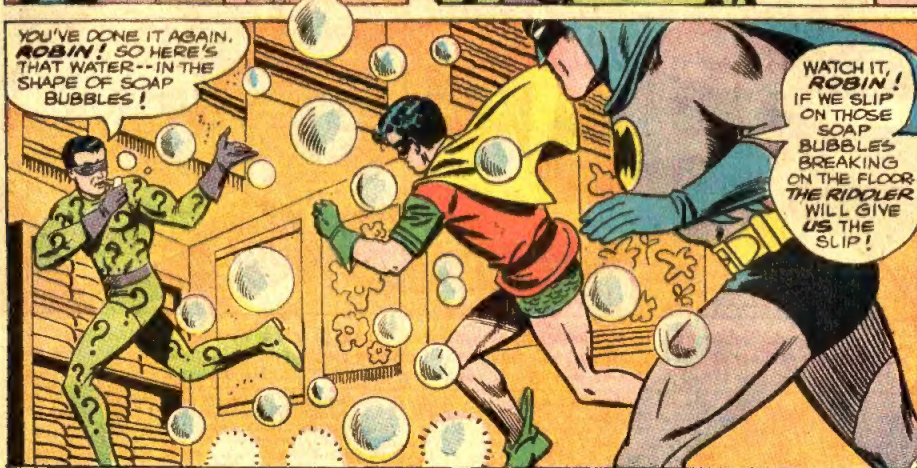
NOW FOR ANOTHER OF MY LITTLE GAMES AND PUZZLES! WHAT CAN RUN--BUT CAN'T WALK, YOU DRATTED DO-GOODERS?

THAT'S EASY, **RIDDLER--** WATER!



YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, **ROBIN!** SO HERE'S THAT WATER--IN THE SHAPE OF SOAP BUBBLES!

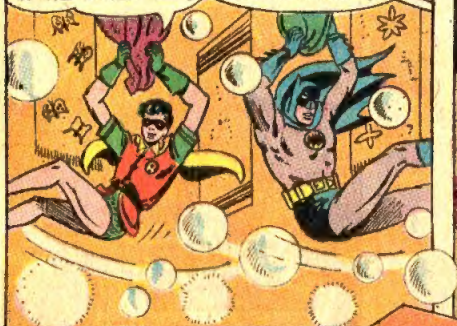
WATCH IT, **ROBIN!** IF WE SLIP ON THOSE SOAP BUBBLES BREAKING ON THE FLOOR--THE **RIDDLER** WILL GIVE US THE SLIP!



UPWARD SOARS THE DYNAMIC DUO--HANDS GRIPPING AN OVERHANGING DECORATIVE TOWEL...

HEY, RIDDLER-- YOU READY TO "THROW IN THE TOWEL" YET?

HA HA--LIKE IN FUNNY, ROBIN! YOU DON'T AMUSE ME ONE BIT-- BUT YOU WILL!



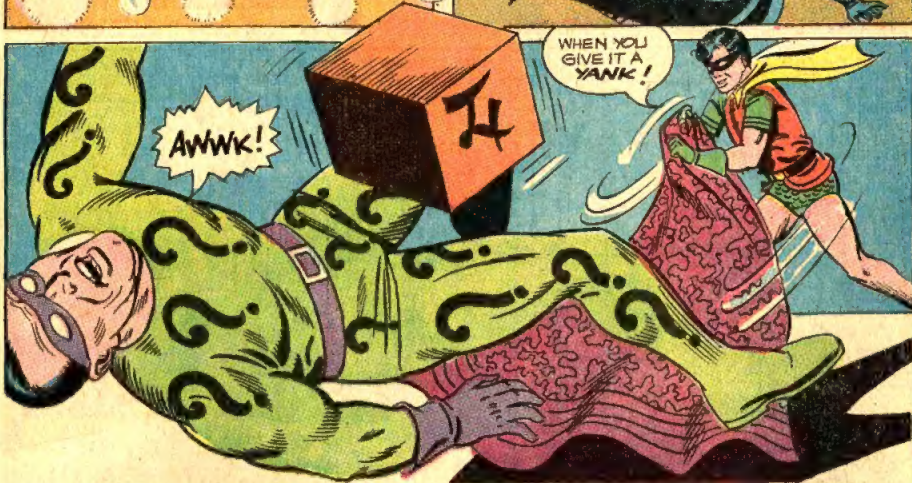
HERE'S SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE LETHAL THAN SOAP BUBBLES! IT'S A SET OF CHINESE BOXES ONE INSIDE THE OTHER-- AND EACH OF THEM IS A BOMB!

I'VE GOT A TEASER FOR YOU, RIDDLER-- WHEN IS A TOWEL PARTLY AMERICAN?



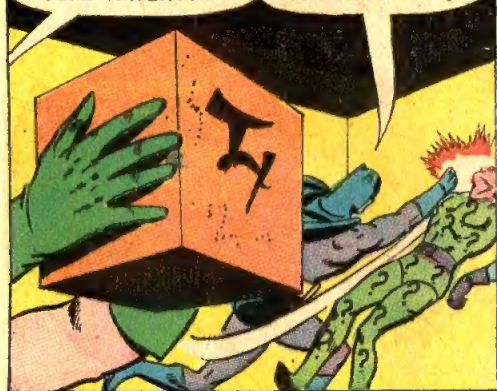
AWWK!

WHEN YOU GIVE IT A YANK!



CAUGHT THE BOX! THERE'LL BE NO BOMBS EXPLODING HERE TONIGHT...

--EXCEPT FOR THIS FIST-BOMB ON THE RIDDLER'S JAW!



OUTSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AFTER A CELL DOOR HAS CLOSED TIGHT ON THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS...

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE HEADLIGHTS, ROBIN? THEY LOOK DIM!

THERE'S SOMETHING SCRAWLED ON THEM IN BLACK, BATMAN! TURN THE CAR AROUND AND SHINE THE HEADLIGHTS ON THE BUILDING! IT'LL MAGNIFY THE SCRAWLS!



IT'S ONE OF THE RIDDLER'S PUZZLERS--ARRANGED IN ADVANCE! WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO SOLVE IT NOW--HE'S SAFELY BEHIND BARS!

IT SURE IS LUCKY HE HAS A COMPULSION TO CLUE US IN WITH RIDDLES WHERE HE'S GOING TO ROB--OR WE MIGHT NEVER CATCH HIM!

WHAT DAY OF THE YEAR IS

A COMMAND TO GO FORWARD?

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MILLIONAIRE BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON SMILE AT ALFRED, THEIR DEVOTED BUTLER...

BIG NIGHT LAST NIGHT, ALFRED?

YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED!

EXCUSE ME, SIR!--YAWN--AND YOU TOO, MASTER DICK! I SLEPT 12 HOURS LAST NIGHT BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY RESTLESS SLUMBER! I'M MORE TIRED NOW THAN WHEN I WENT TO BED! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT...

MAYBE YOU DREAMED YOU WERE PITCHING PENNIES, ALFRED--WHICH IS WHY YOU TOSSED ALL NIGHT!

THAT EVENING AT DINNER, THEIR LOYAL AND TRUE SERVANT CAN BARELY DRAG HIMSELF AROUND...

YAWN

IT WAS FUNNY THIS MORNING, ALFRED, BUT IT'S NO LONGER SO! GET TO BED AT ONCE!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DISHES, ALFRED! WE MUST MAKE SURE YOU STAY WELL, YOU KNOW!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT THE SLEEPING SICKNESS!

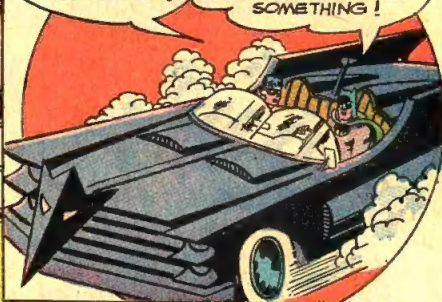
YOU WANT ME TO HELP WITH THE DISHES, AUNT HARRIET?

NO, NO! GOODNESS! IT WILL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO! NOW YOU TWO JUST RUN ALONG!

SOON AFTERWARD, MOTOR HUMMING WITH THROBBING POWER, THE BATMOBILE ROARS THROUGH THE NIGHT UNTIL...

BATMAN, THE BATTECTOR IS ACTING UP!

CHECK IT FOR DIRECTION AND TYPE OF SOUND! WE MAY HAVE LATCHED ONTO SOMETHING!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

DIVE into an
underwater
world of
ACTION
with the
GI JOE®



FROGMAN *and* SEA SLED

YOU'RE IN COMMAND . . .

WHEN YOU OWN THE G.I. JOE®
FROGMAN AND SEA SLED. THE
BATTERY OPERATED SEA SLED IS
PROPELLER DRIVEN. REAL DIVING
PLANES—THAT YOU CONTROL—
LET IT MOVE ON, IN, AND UNDER
THE WATER. EQUIPPED WITH G.I.
JOE® IN AN ORANGE SCUBA SUIT,
FINS, MASK AND TANKS, THE G.I.
JOE® FROGMAN AND SEA SLED SET
WILL GIVE YOU NEW UNDERWATER
ADVENTURES ALL SUMMER LONG.



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**NOW,
ROBIN!**

OR EVEN
SOONER!

AS THEY SPRING FOR SAFETY, BATMAN'S STEEL-
SPRING BEGS KICK THE CHEST OUT FROM UNDER THE
GUNMEN...

WOWW! THOSE SKULLS ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME "CROSS BONES" IN THE MORNING!

THE MASKED MANHUNTER WHIRLS LIKE AN INDIAN DERVISH AND...

GLIB OF SPEECH AS ROBIN, I'D SAY "I'M USING THIS THUG'S HEAD TO GIVE ME A HEAD-START AT THIS OTHER GUNMAN!"

ZWIPP

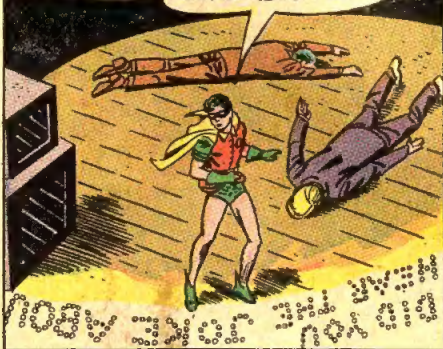
THWAAK!

MEANWHILE, ROBIN IS PULLING SOME FEET-FEATS OF HIS OWN...



AS THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT RISES TO HIS FEET...

THAT TAKES CARE OF -- eh? -- SOMEBODY'S ARRANGED THOSE SPANISH DOUBLOONS TO FORM WORDS! "DID YOU HEAR THE JOKE ABOUT..."



"...THE SKELETON THAT WENT INTO AN ICE CREAM PARLOR AND ORDERED HIS FAVORITE DRINK "Z Hmmm! I DON'T KNOW THAT ONE..."

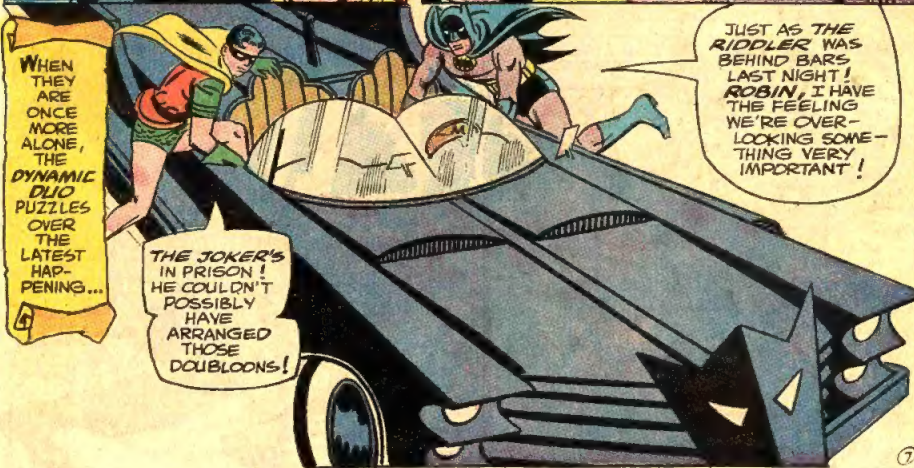
IT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THE JOKER'S WILD JOKES! WHAT SORT OF DRINK DID THE SKELETON ASK FOR, I WONDER?



SUDDENLY, THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER WHIRLS AND...

OKAY-TALK! WHO PAID YOU TO ARRANGE THOSE DOUBLOONS LIKE THAT?

HONEST, BATMAN-- WE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'! WE WERE TOO BUSY GETTIN' SOCKED TO WRITE ANY MESSAGES!

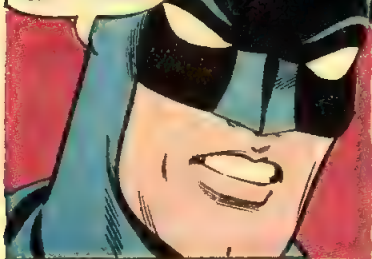


WHEN THEY ARE ONCE MORE ALONE, THE DYNAMIC DUO PUZZLES OVER THE LATEST HAPPENING...

THE JOKER'S IN PRISON! HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ARRANGED THOSE DOUBLOONS!

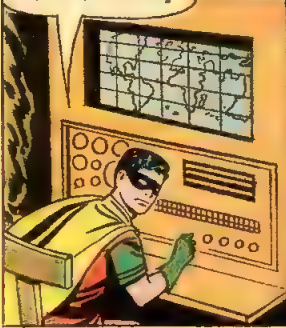
JUST AS THE RIDDLER WAS BEHIND BARS LAST NIGHT! ROBIN, I HAVE THE FEELING WE'RE OVER-LOOKING SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT!

IF THE RIDDLE AND JOKER DIDN'T LEAVE THOSE CRYPTIC MESSAGES-- WHO DID? AND-- WHY? ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT WE OUGHT TO DROP EVERYTHING ELSE AND TRY TO SOLVE THEM? MAYBE THEY POINT TO A CRIME THAT'S YET TO BE COMMITTED...?



LATER, IN THE BATCAVE...

NO CRIME FOLLOWED THE RIDDLE LAST NIGHT! AND ACCORDING TO OUR WORLD-WIDE RADIO REPORTS-- THERE'S BEEN NO JOKER-STYLE CRIME TONIGHT!



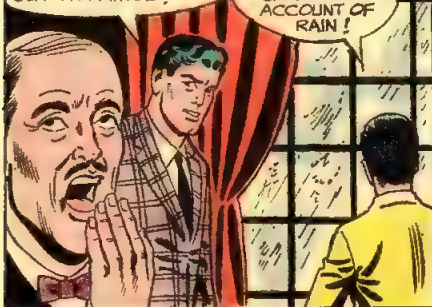
I DON'T GET IT! WHY GIVE US THESE "CRIME--LEES CLUES"? WHO'S TAUNTING US IN THE COMBINED STYLES OF OUR MOST INFAMOUS FOES?



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS RAIN POURS DOWN AND LIGHTNING CRACKLES IN THE SKY...

YOU'D BETTER HIT THE SACK, ALFRED! DESPITE THE INCLEMENT WEATHER, DICK AND I ARE GOING OUT ON PATROL!

RIGHT YOU ARE, BRUCE-- OUR KIND OF GAME ISN'T CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF RAIN!



THROUGH DRIVING SHEETS OF WATER THE BAT-MOBILE CRUISES ALONG MILLIONAIRE'S ROW.

WHEN? WILL YOU LOOK AT THOSE CROOKS RUNNING OUT OF THAT MANSION AS BOLD AS BRAES-- WITH THEIR ARMS FULL OF LOOT!

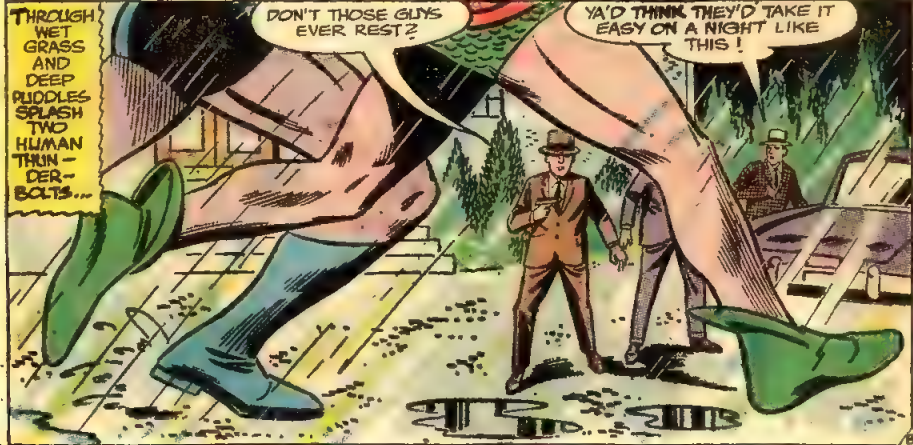
THAT'S THE KEVIN JACKSON HOUSE-- AND THE JACKSONS ARE AWAY ON VACATION!



THROUGH WET GRASS AND DEEP PUDDLES SPLASH TWO HUMAN THIN-- DER-BOLTS...

DON'T THOSE GUYS EVER REST?

YA'D THINK THEY'D TAKE IT EASY ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

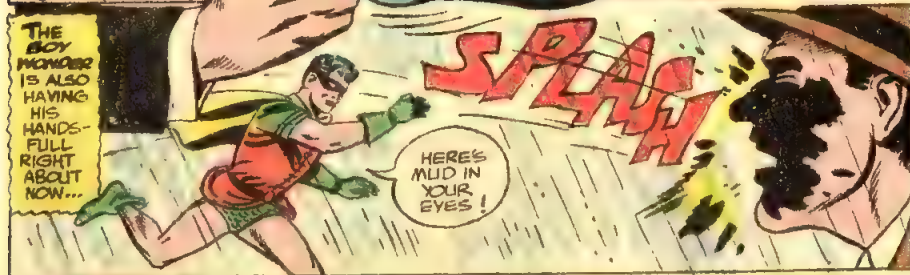


THERE'S NO REST
AGAINST THE
FORCES OF
EVIL!

SPONNK



THAT TAKES CARE
OF THIS GUNSHY
CROOK!



THE
BOY
MONSTER
IS ALSO
HAVING
HIS
HANDS-
FULL
RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW...

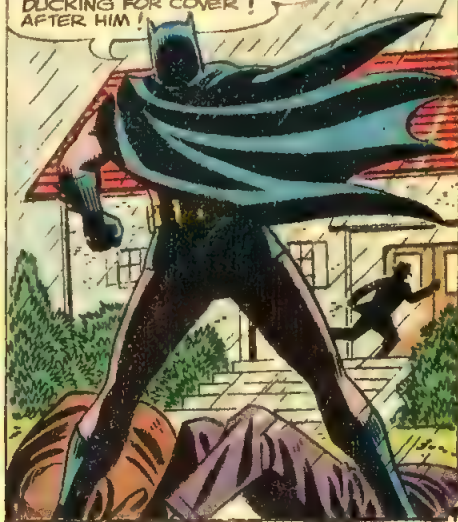
HERE'S
MUD IN
YOUR
EYES!



I'LL SPARE
YOU A PUN--
BUT NOT A
PUNCH!

AN ALERT BATMAN SHOUTS SUDDENLY...

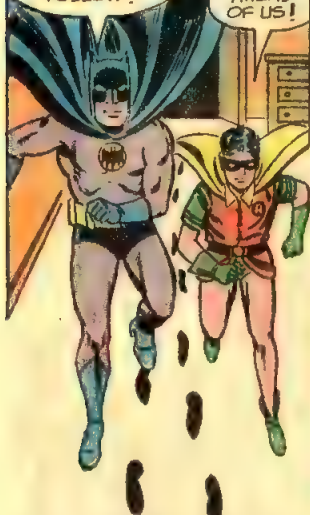
ROBIN--THERE GOES ANOTHER
OF THEM INTO THE HOUSE --
DUCKING FOR COVER!
AFTER HIM!



ALONG THE DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY ON THE TRACK OF MUDDY FOOTPRINTS SPURTS THE DYNAMIC DUO...

OUR QUARRY DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S LEAVING A CLEAR TRAIL FOR US TO FOLLOW!

IT LEADS INTO THE CLOSED ROOM AHEAD OF US!



BUT WHEN THE DOOR IS SLAMMED OPEN...

BATMAN-- THE FOOT-PRINTS!

LEAD UP THE WALL AND--



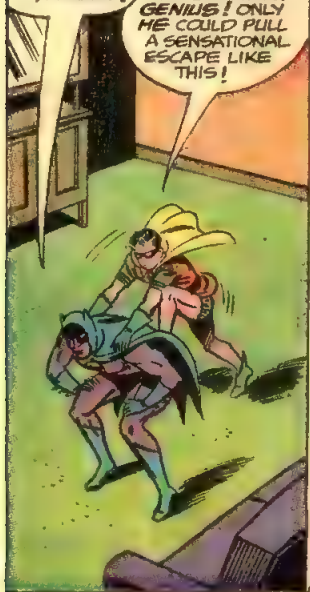
--AND END IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CEILING!

HE MUST HAVE DIS-APPEARED THROUGH A TRAP-DOOR IN THE CEILING!



CLIMB ON MY SHOULDERS AND CHECK IT, ROBIN!

I BET WE'RE TANGLING WITH OUR OLD Foe THE GETAWAY GENIUS! ONLY HE COULD PULL A SENSATIONAL ESCAPE LIKE THIS!



THE PLASTER IS SOLID! THERE'S NO TRAPDOOR UP HERE! WE'VE BEEN HOOD-WINKED!

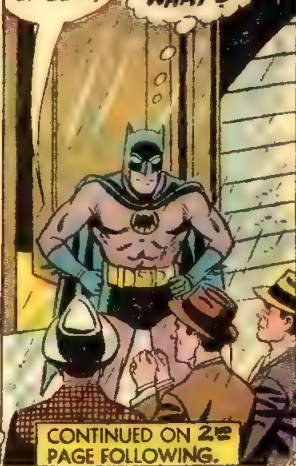


THEN HOW--? OF COURSE! HE TOOK OFF HIS MUDDY SHOES--MADE THOSE MISLEADING PRINTS-- THEN RAN OUT THE OTHER DOOR! AND WHILE HE DECEIVED US-- HE MADE HIS GETAWAY!

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, MOMENTS LATER...

WHADDA YA MEAN THE GET-AWAY GENIUS? THERE'S ONLY THREE OF US--!

IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH-- THEN THIS WAS ANOTHER OF THOSE CRIME-LESS CLUES! THEY ALL ADD UP TO SOMETHING-- BUT WHAT?



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

PRESENTING the MAN of the HOUR— **CLARK KENT!**

I'LL BE WITH YOU AS CLARK IN A MOMENT... BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT **SUPERMAN?**

NO...WE WANT YOU... **CLARK KENT!**

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT ACT AS THE HEROIC "FIREMAN OF STEEL"?

WELL, YES!

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU ONCE HAD A SHOWDOWN WITH GANG LEADER **AL CAPONE?**

ER... IT IS!

AREN'T YOU THE STAR OF "CAVEMAN CLARK KENT," "THE TRUTH MIRROR," "CLARK KENT'S NEW PARENTS," AND OTHER SUPER-STORIES?

AND AREN'T THESE EXCITING TALES ALL FEATURED IN THIS LATEST **80 PAGE GIANT?**

OF COURSE...

RIGHT! AND IT'S **ON SALE APR. 11TH!**



CLARK KENT MEETS **AL CAPONE!**



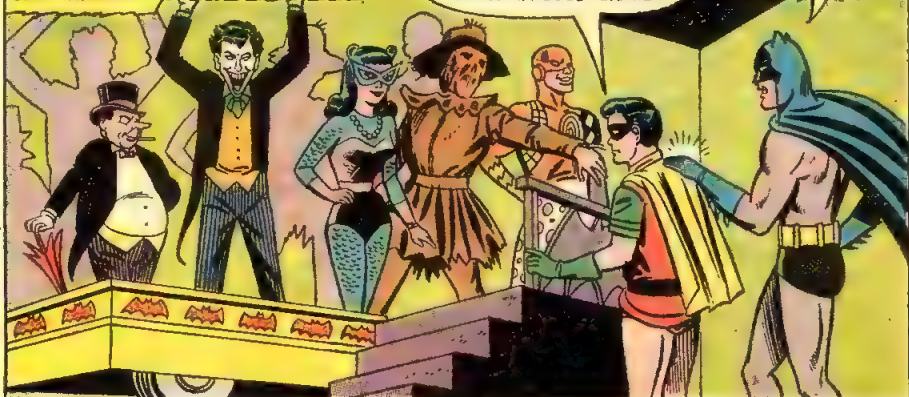
THE ROBOT **CLARK KENT**



STILL PUZZLING OVER THE APPARENTLY MEANINGLESS CLUES, BATMAN AND ROBIN CONTINUE THEIR PATROL. JUST BEFORE DAWN THEY STOP OFF AT A BIG SHED WHERE...

THE FLOAT WE'RE GOING TO RIDE IN THE FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE LATER ON TODAY LOOKS IN GOOD SHAPE--

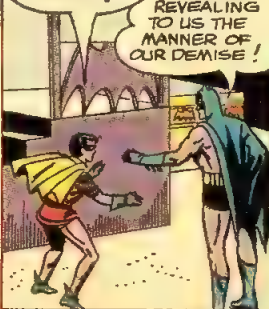
ROBIN--THAT'S IT! FOUNDER'S DAY-- MARCH FOURTH!



AT LAST--THOSE "CRIME-LESS CLUES" MAKE SENSE! REMEMBER THE FIRST ONE-- "WHAT DAY OF THE YEAR IS A COMMAND TO GO FORWARD?" THE ANSWER IS MARCH FOURTH! WHAT DID THE SKELETON ORDER IN THE ICE CREAM PARLOR? A DEAD MAN'S FLOAT!



WHO? ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THIS FLOAT WE'RE GOING TO BE STANDING ON IN THE PARADE IS A--DEATH-TRAP?



RIGHT! THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN GIVING US THOSE CLUES HAS BEEN REVEALING TO US THE MANNER OF OUR DEMISE!

LIKE THE FOOT-PRINTS--WE'RE GOING TO RISE UP AND DIS-APPEAR! WE'RE SET TO DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE!

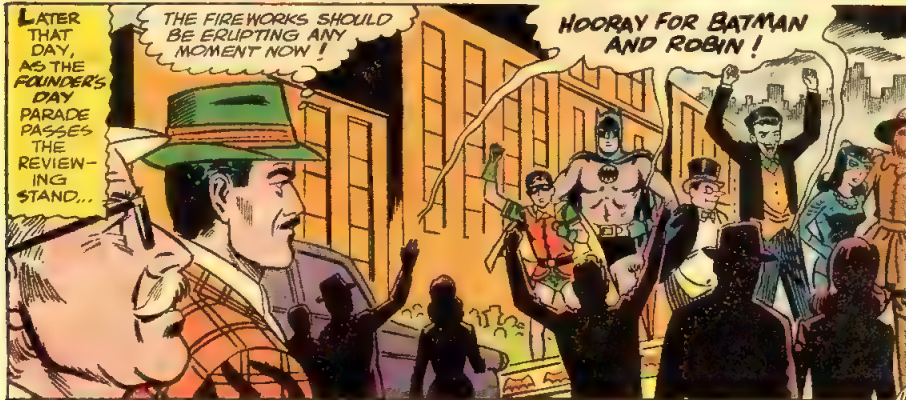
BUT NOW-- THANKS TO THOSE "CRIME-LESS CLUES"-- WE CAN TAKE MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD OURSELVES! BUT WHO PREPARED THOSE CLUES? WHO ARRANGED THE DEATHTRAP?



LATER THAT DAY, AS THE FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE PASSES THE REVIEWING STAND...

THE FIREWORKS SHOULD BE ERUPTING ANY MOMENT NOW!

HOORAY FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN!



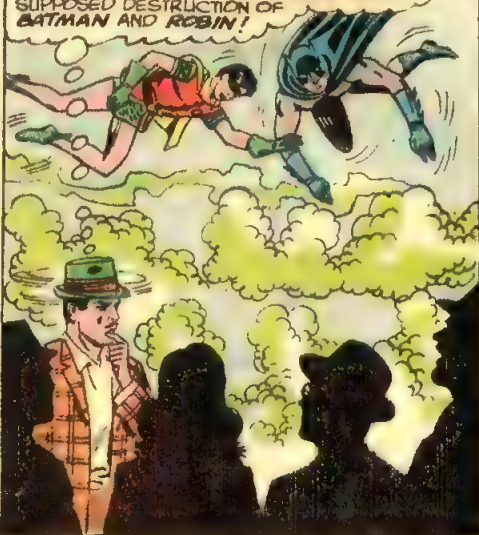
THE NEXT INSTANT, THE WAXED FIGURE OF THE PENGUIN ON THE BATMAN-ROBIN FLOAT RAISES ITS UMBRELLA AND...

LOOK! THE WAX FIGURE OF PENGUIN IS CASSING BATMAN AND ROBIN!



AS THAT GAS SWIRLS ABOUT THE MASKED MANHUNTERS, IT LIFTS THEM INTO THE AIR...

ROBIN AND I ARE HERE IN DISGUISE--TO LOOK OVER THE CROWD, ALONG WITH THE ALERTED POLICE--TO SEE IF OUR "KILLER" GIVES HIMSELF AWAY BY THE WAY HE REACTS TO THE SUPPOSED DESTRUCTION OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



"BATMAN" AND "ROBIN" BLOWN UP! EVERYONE--WITHOUT EXCEPTION--IS REACTING WITH HORROR!



AS THEY SCAN THE CROWD IN THEIR DISGUISES, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GNAWED BY THE BITTER BITE OF FAILURE...

CAN I HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN? DID WHOEVER SET THAT DEATH-TRAP STAY AWAY?

NOT A SMIRK IN THE CROWD! WE'VE BLOWN IT!



SUDDENLY, THE DISGUISED BATMAN LEAPS FORWARD AS...

POOR ALFRED! HE THINKS THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE KILLED--AND PASSED OUT! HE DOESN'T REALIZE THOSE WERE ONLY AUDIO-ANIMATRON FIGURES!!



*THE SCIENCE OF AUDIO-ANIMATRONICS CAN DUPLICATE A HUMAN BEING PERFECTLY IN APPEARANCE AND ACTION BY USE OF REMOTE-CONTROL ELECTRONIC STIMULI!

THEN "BATMAN" FREEZES IN UTTER SHOCK AS A MALEVOLENT GRIN STRETCHES ALFRED'S LIPS...

I--DID--IT!
I DESTROYED
MY MORTAL
FOES--
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!

HIS SMILE--IS
THE SINISTER
SMILE OF THE
OUTSIDER!



DETECTIVE COMICS # 356 :
"INSIDE STORY OF THE OUTSIDER!"

LATER, AFTER THEY HAVE TAKEN THE UNCONSCIOUS ALFRED HOME AND PUT HIM TO BED...

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW ALFRED, WHEN HE WAS UNKNOWINGLY MASQUERADING AS THE **OUTSIDER**, COULD HAVE PREPARED THAT DEATHTRAP TO TAKE EFFECT ON **MARCH FOURTH!**

I CAN GRASP HOW HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND--WHICH REMEMBERED HE WAS THE **OUTSIDER**--TOOK OVER COMMAND OF HIS BODY WHEN HE WAS ASLEEP...



BUT HOW COULD ALFRED HAVE TIPPED US OFF ABOUT WHAT THE **OUTSIDER** HAD PREPARED--WITHOUT HAVING ANY RE-COLLECTION OF IT?

HE OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWED US ON OUR NIGHTLY PATROLS--WHILE IN A SLEEP--WALKING CONDITION--AND WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY CAME TO PLANT ONE OF HIS CLUES...



"HE STEALTHILY SNEARED OUR **BATMOBILE** HEAD-LIGHTS WITH A CHEMICAL TO SPELL OUT A RIDDLE... AS HE PLACED THE COINS ON THE FLOOR OF THE MARINE WAREHOUSE--AND THE DISAPPEARING FOOTPRINTS IN THE ROOM OF THE JACKSON HOUSE..."



THIS EXPLAINS WHY HE WAS SO TIRED! HE WAS GOING DAY AND NIGHT! THE LOYAL, FAITHFUL ALFRED WE KNOW HAD SUB-CONSCIOUSLY REJECTED EVERYTHING HE HAD DONE AS THE **OUTSIDER** AND SOUGHT TO MAKE AMENDS BY GIVING US A WARNING WHILE HE REMEMBERED--IN THAT SAME SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND--THE DOOM HE HAD PREPARED FOR US AS THE **OUTSIDER!**



NEXT MORNING IN THE WAYNE MANSION, A MOURNING ALFRED COMES TO A SHOCKED STOP AS...

"SOB - TO THINK THAT--"

MR. WAYNE! MASTER DICK! ALIVE AND WELL!

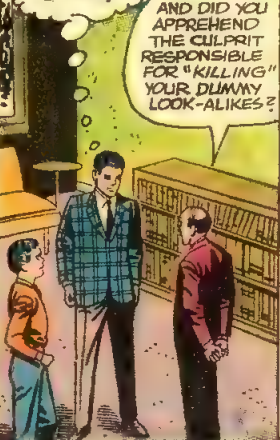
I THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN KILLED YESTERDAY... AND ALL OF THE NIGHTS WHEN I SHOULDN'T HAVE, I HAD A GOOD SLEEP!



NATURALLY! BELIEVING BATMAN AND ROBIN DEAD, THE PART OF HIM WHICH WAS THE OUTSIDER RELAXED ITS GRIP ON HIM! HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND WILL NEVER TROUBLE HIM AGAIN!



KNOWING HOW INTRIGUED WE ARE BY MYSTERIES, ALFRED DID HIS BEST TO WARN US OF OUR DOOM BY CLUEING US IN WITH THE UNIQUE METHODS OF THE RIDDLER, JOKER AND GETAWAY GENIUS! SINCE WE KNEW THEY WERE IN JAIL, WE'D TRY ALL THE HARDER TO UNDERSTAND THE CRIME-LESS CLUES!



AND DID YOU APPREHEND THE CULPRIT RESPONSIBLE FOR "KILLING" YOUR DUMMY LOOK-ALIKES?

YES, ALFRED-- WE CAUGHT UP TO HIM! HE'LL NEVER MENACE US AGAIN!

I'M GLAD OF THAT, SIR!

ALFRED WILL NEVER KNOW HE WAS BOTH

THE VILLAIN-- AND HERO-- OF THIS CASE! HE SET THE TRAP AS THE OUTSIDER, BUT SAVED US FROM IT AS OUR FAITHFUL BUTLER!



The End!

THE SEAS QUAKE AT HIS VERY NAME... AQUABEAST!

The tiniest minnow and the mightiest whale flee from the sight of... AQUABEAST!

THE SEA KING HIMSELF CRUMBLES BEFORE THE AWESOME ONSLAUGHT OF... AQUABEAST!

SEE HIM CRUPT IN... AQUAMAN... ON SALE MAY 2ND



BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm highly surprised at you! "Case of the Abbreviated BATMAN," in the February *Detective Comics*, could have started the career of a new addition to *Batman's* rogues' gallery in the person of *Gunshy Barton*. Instead, you seemingly finish him off after this one appearance. Please, let him escape from prison get out on parole, etc.—but BRING GUNSHY BARTON BACK! Maybe you could even design a suitable costume for him. With a few improvements, he could easily become one of the most unique of *Batman's* villains.

Bob Kane's art was great, but nothing could surpass the job Carmine Infantino did on the cover. The story was especially enjoyable because of the clever little sequences added, which in the end all added up very satisfactorily. *Batman* was afraid of guns, so his men used judo; because of this, *Batman's* glove was pulled off; when he kayoed a crook he broke his fingernail, which he later used to effect his escape. The author's mind works in mysterious ways.

As for the *Elongated Man*, he is looking better than ever since Murphy Anderson took over the guest artist role. My only complaint against *EM* is that in many scenes Anderson unnecessarily has him stretching his arms or legs. Don't overdo a good thing. As far as delineation goes, the *Stretchable Sleuth* has had three alterations in the color scheme of his uniform within the last few issues. My favorite was the second with its red belt, wrist and arm bands, and yellow trousers and shirt. Gardner Fox always gives us a good story, and "London Caper of the Rockers and Mods" was no exception.

—Peter Mancuso, Plainview, N.Y.

(It's dubious whether *Gunshy Barton* is good—or bad—enough to make a reappearance. Having displayed his unique abbreviated talk gimmick, he may very well have shot his bolt. We're rather anxious to receive reader appraisal of this issue's guest artist on the *Elongated Man*—Irv Novick, one of the veterans in the business. (We suggest you take a look at the work he's currently doing in *Teen Titans*)—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

I will say this about the February, 1967 *Detective Comics*—it looked like a good cover story. The cover art was as good as usual, but the story was unusually poor. It began as a very good story but as it progressed, it started to go downhill. *Gunshy Barton* and his gang sounded like good villains but when their crime gimmick was revealed, their appeal as villains also disintegrated. It seemed highly unlikely that *Barton's* gang could understand all his abbreviated commands.

Bob Kane's artwork saved the yarn from complete ruin. I especially enjoyed the "old" *Batman* fight scenes. By the way, who did the inking job?

—David Simpkins, Radford, Va.

(Joe Giella did the inking—and, in answer to reader questions why Joe isn't doing as much DC inking as he's done in the past (on *Flash*, for example), a good part of his time is concentrated on the *Batman* syndicate comic strip.—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

In the February *Detective* I noticed that the first story showed *Batman* wearing his old BAT wardrobe with the old BAT symbol on his shirt in the first few pages, and the new *Batman* uniform for the remainder of the story. I feel you owe me an explanation.

—Barry Siegal, Los Angeles, Cal.

(With the introduction of the "New Look" in the May, 1964 *Detective Comics*, *Batman's* uniform was changed slightly from its former ("old") appearance. Since the first few pages of the "Case of the Abbreviated BATMAN" took place prior to the "New Look," *Batman* was shown wearing his "old" costume—and driving the *Batmobile* model of years ago.—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

I suppose I could have made a big poster reading, "Welcome Back *Batman* and *Robin*!" for the February *Detective*. Most stories in the past few issues were (let's face it) camp, something like you would see on the TV series. Here in "Case of the Abbreviated BATMAN" I found the real *Dynamic Duo*. The story was in the old groove again. Here are the points that determined this:

(1) Natural dialogue. *Robin* gets an A plus in effort and grammar for not using any "Holy—" or silly puns.

(2) No costumed villain—pure and simple.

(3) The criminal, *Gunshy Barton*, had an original scheme, giving abbreviated commands. It was "almost" foolproof.

(4) Part of the story took place during the "old look". The TV series has no "old" or "new" look, so this story could only be told in the comic mags.

(5) Good fight scenes with no oversized POWS, BIFFS or ZAPS.

(6) Bob Kane has come out of his "cartoony" hull of the past several issues.

—Mark Dillman, Topeka, Kan.

DEAR EDITOR:

"London Caper of the Rockers and Mods" was a disappointing *Elongated Man* story. One of the best things in an *EM* yarn is that the reader has to use his brains. Throughout most of these stories the reader tries to figure out why someone did something unusual, and the answer always comes at the end of the story. When I get to the next to last page I stop and think. Then I continue reading and check my solution with the author's. But in this story you find out why the mods made *Big Ben* go backwards on the fifth page! I wasn't allowed to stop and figure out why they did this at the end of the story like I usually do—hence I must register this story as a failure.

—Charles Perkins, Cambridge, Mass.

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

The ELONGATED Man

STORY BY
GARDNER FOX

ART BY
IRV NOVICK

IT WAS REASONABLE FOR THE SHIP-BUYER TO DEMAND A GUARANTEE FROM THE DEALER-- BUT WHY A GUARANTEE THAT THE SHIP WOULD **SINK**?

THEY BAITED ME DOWN HERE -- TO PLAY THE POOR FISH FOR THEIR HARPOON-GUNS!



The **SHIP** THAT **SANK** **TWICE!**

ONE MORNING AT A FLORIDA MARINA, WHERE RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIENY AND HIS WIFE SUE HAVE JUST RENTED A SAILBOAT...



THAT'S TOO RICH FOR MY BLOOD! MY LIMIT IS--\$100! THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT!

AND ALL I'VE GOT FOR \$100 IS A WASHED-UP SAILBOAT! IF YOU'RE LUCKY IT'LL GO TWO MILES BEFORE IT SINKS!

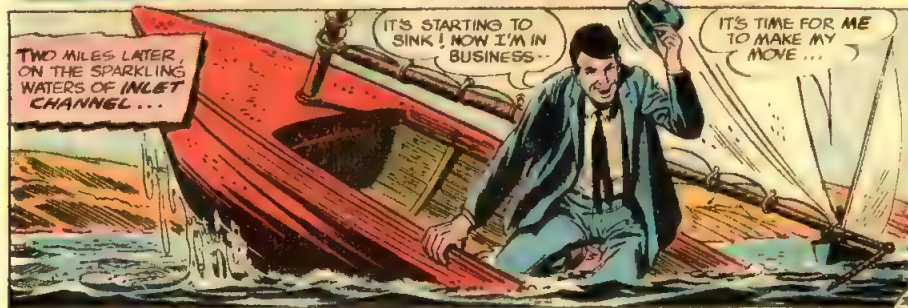
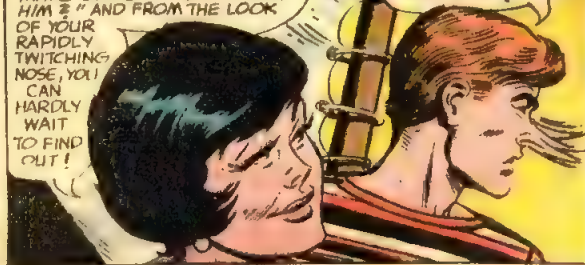
TWO MILES--AND THEN SINK I AM LUCKY! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT! HERE'S YOUR MONEY--I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO TAKE IT OUT ON A TEST-RUN AND SEE IT SINK IN A COUPLE OF MILES!

HUH? WHY WOULD--

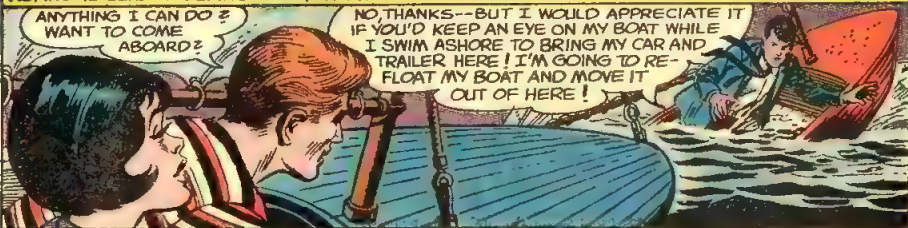


LET ME SAY IT, RALPH! "WHY WOULD A MAN BUY A BOAT THAT'S GOING TO SINK UNDER HIM?" AND FROM THE LOOK OF YOUR RAPIDLY TWITCHING NOSE, YOU CAN HARDLY WAIT TO FIND OUT!

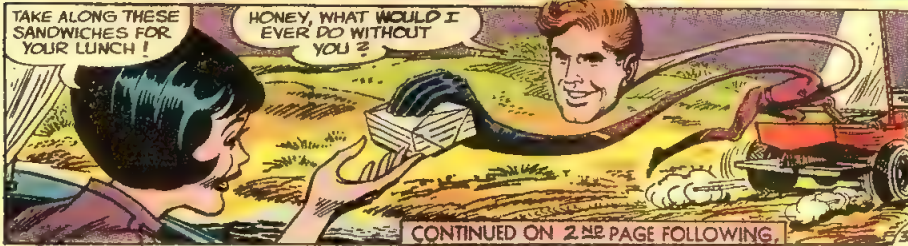
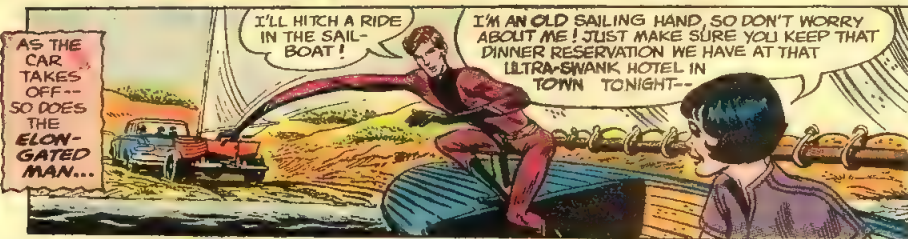
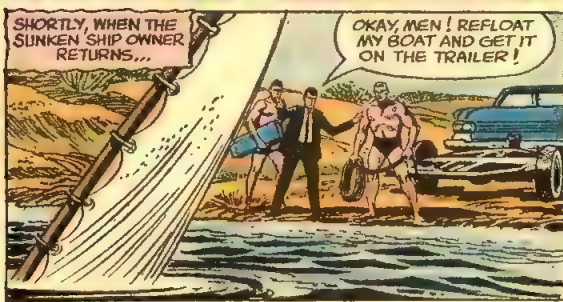
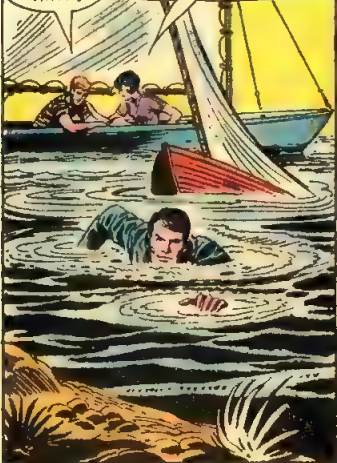
RIGHT, HONEY! WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THAT MAN!



HOPING TO LEND A HELPING HAND, RALPH TURNS HIS **SAILSTAR** TOWARD THE FOUNDERING VESSEL...

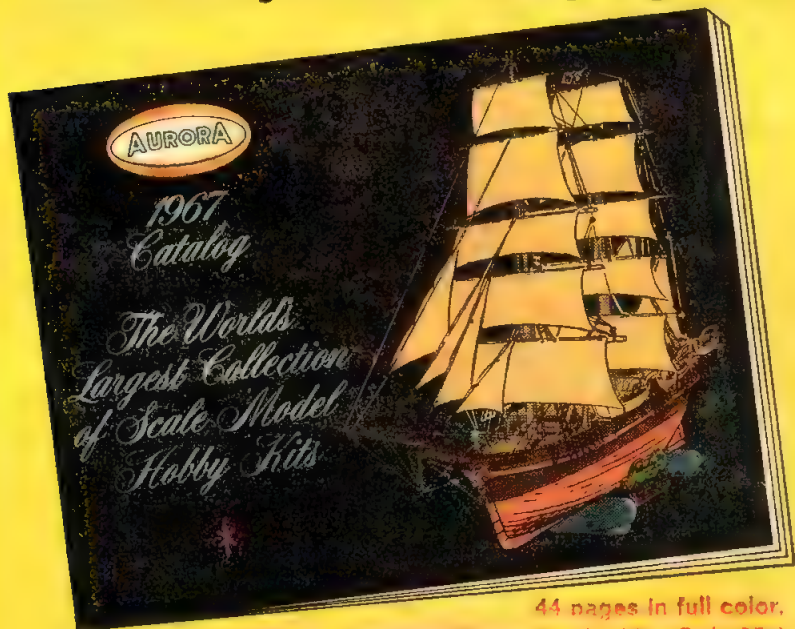


WHERE'S HE GOING TO TAKE THE
BOAT ? TOO BAD I DIDN'T BRING
ALONG MY **ELONGATED MAN**
COSTUME ! I
COULD
SECRETLY
FOLLOW
HIM !



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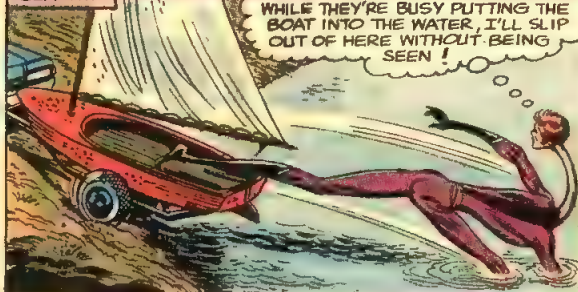
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AS THE TRAILER TRUNDLES ALONG
BENEATH THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL SUE, BUT
I'D RATHER NOT EAT THESE SAND-
WICHES! FOR ALL I KNOW, THIS
CASE MAY TAKE ME INTO WATER,
AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO DO
ANY SWIMMING AFTER
EATING...

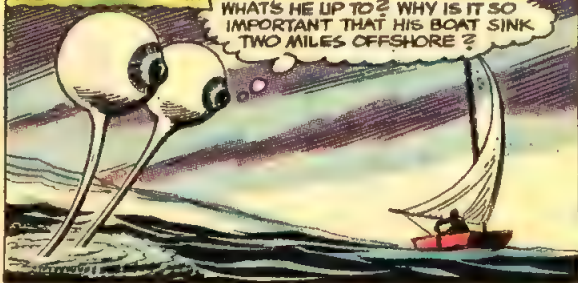


WHEN THE CAR COMES TO A STOP ON A SLOPING STRETCH OF
BEACH...



WHILE THEY'RE BUSY PUTTING THE
BOAT INTO THE WATER, I'LL SLIP
OUT OF HERE WITHOUT BEING
SEEN!

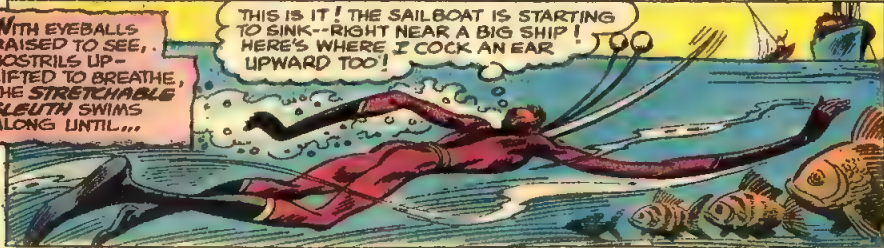
A PAIR OF EYEBALLS PERISCOPES OUT OF THE WATER, TRAIL-
ING THE SAIL BOAT...



WHAT'S HE UP TO? WHY IS IT SO
IMPORTANT THAT HIS BOAT SINK
TWO MILES OFFSHORE?

WITH EYEBALLS
RAISED TO SEE,
NOSTRILS UP-
LIFTED TO BREATHE,
THE **STRETCHABLE**
SLEUTH SWIMS
ALONG UNTIL...

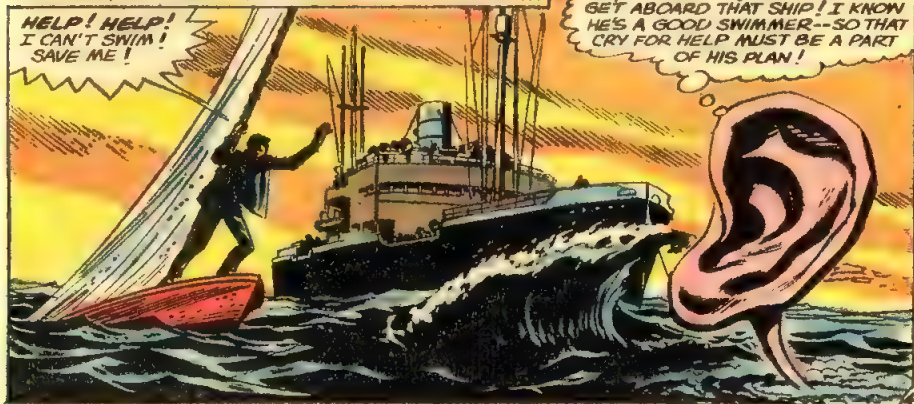
THIS IS IT! THE SAILBOAT IS STARTING
TO SINK--RIGHT NEAR A BIG SHIP!
HERE'S WHERE I COCK AN EAR
UPWARD TOO!

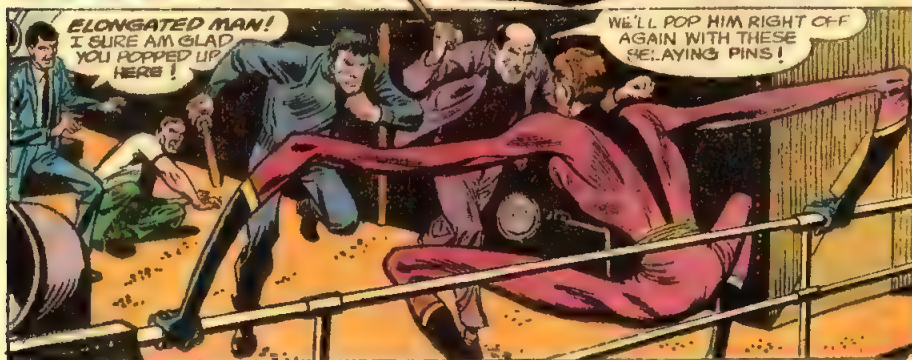
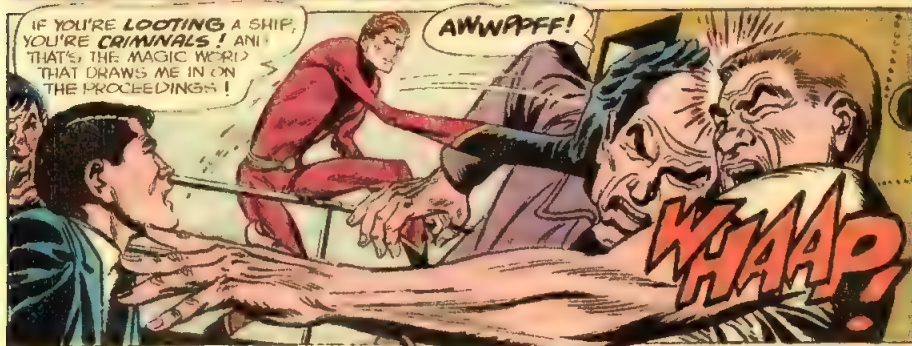
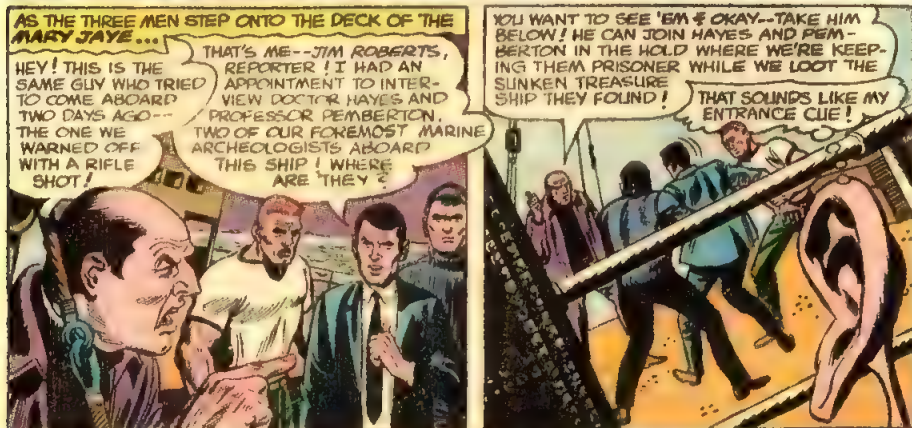


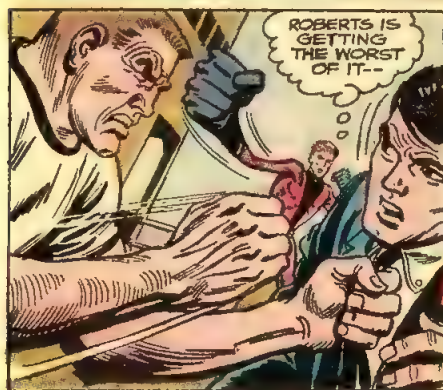
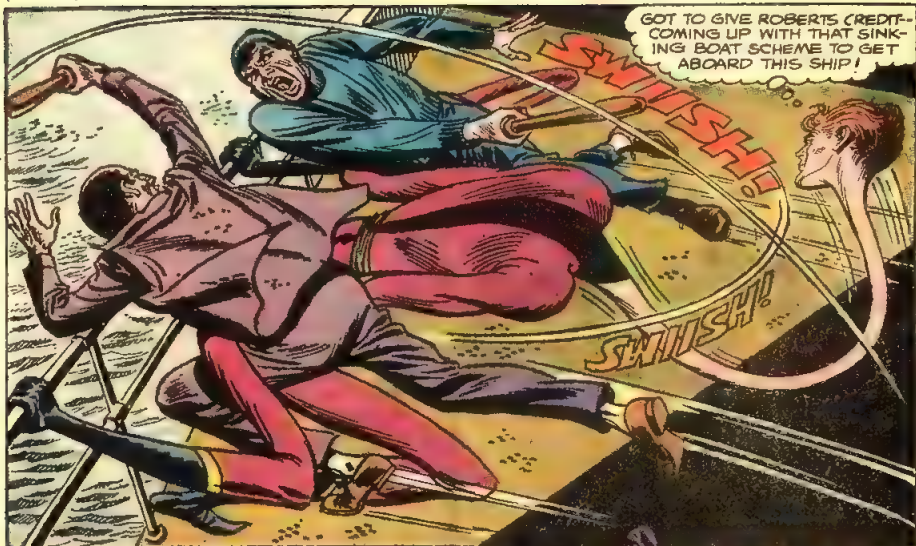
SUDDENLY, THE OCEAN AIR IS RACKED BY A WILD CRY...

HELP! HELP!
I CAN'T SWIM!
SAVE ME!

AH, SO THAT'S IT! HE WANTS TO
GET ABOARD THAT SHIP! I KNOW
HE'S A GOOD SWIMMER--SO THAT
CRY FOR HELP MUST BE A PART
OF HIS PLAN!



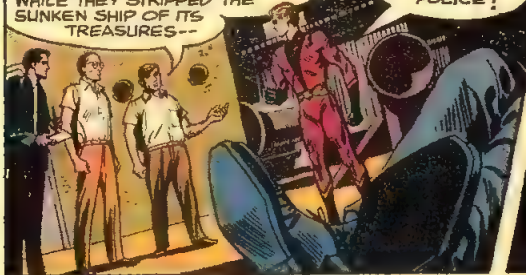




WHEN THE IMPRISONED MARINE ARCHEOLOGISTS ARE RE-LEASED...

SOMEHOW THOSE CROOKS LEARNED ABOUT THE SUNKEN TREASURE SHIP WE DISCOVERED--AND SNEAKED ON BOARD ONE NIGHT. WE WERE SLUGGED AND PUT IN THE HOLD WHILE THEY STRIPPED THE SUNKEN SHIP OF ITS TREASURES--

I'LL TAKE THEM BACK TO SHORE IN THE TENDER-- THEN TURN THEM OVER TO THE POLICE!

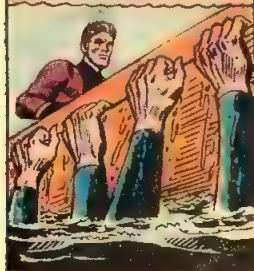


SOON AFTER, THE TENDER IS UNDERWAY...

ROBERTS STAYED ON BOARD TO GET HIS INTERVIEW-- BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO KEEP THAT DINNER DATE WITH SUE!

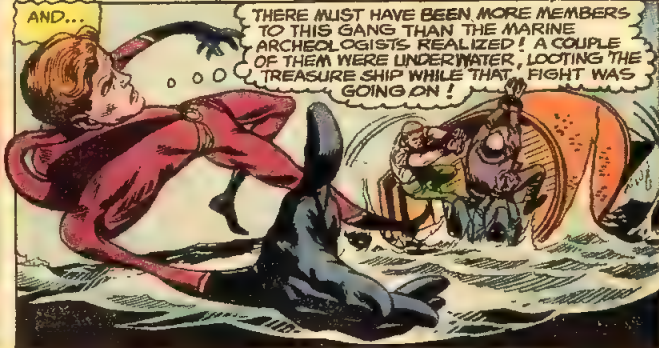


OUT OF THE DEEP STAB TWO PAIRS OF HANDS-- CATCH HOLD OF THE BOAT...

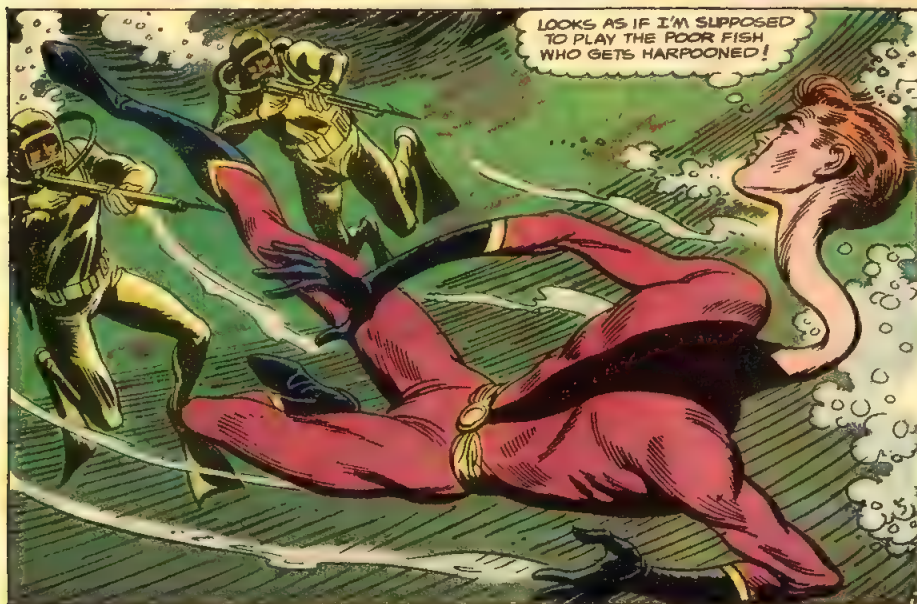


AND...

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MORE MEMBERS TO THIS GANG THAN THE MARINE ARCHEOLOGISTS REALIZED! A COUPLE OF THEM WERE UNDERWATER, LOOTING THE TREASURE SHIP WHILE THAT FIGHT WAS GOING ON!



LOOKS AS IF I'M SUPPOSED TO PLAY THE POOR FISH WHO GETS HARPOONED!



HERE'S WHERE I TURN MY
BODY INTO A LOPSIDED
FIGURE EIGHT--SO THAT
AS THOSE HARPOONS
SHOOT THROUGH THE
LOOPS ...



...I TIGHTEN
MYSELF
AROUND THE
HARPOONS...



...AND USE THEM TO
THRASH THE THUGS
WITH THEIR OWN
WEAPONS!



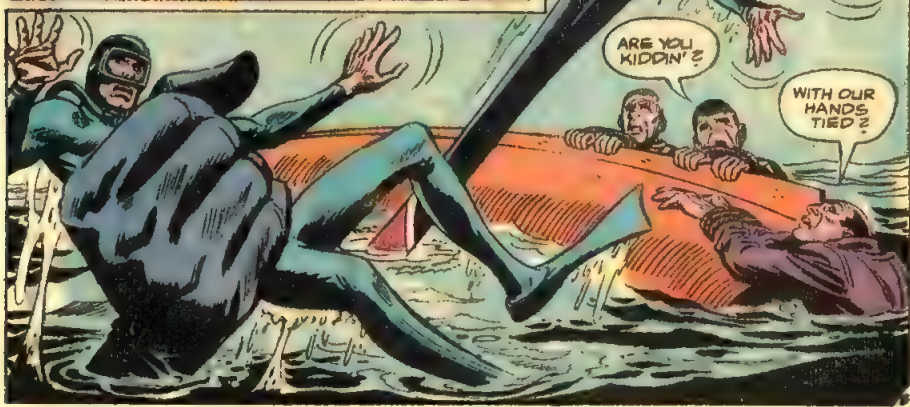
UPWARD FROM THE SEA GEYSERS A
PAIR OF CROOKS, GRIPPED IN A PAIR OF
ELONGATED HANDS!...

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH YOU GUYS? WHY DIDN'T
YA COME DOWN AND LEND US A
HAND?



ARE YOU
KIDDIN'?

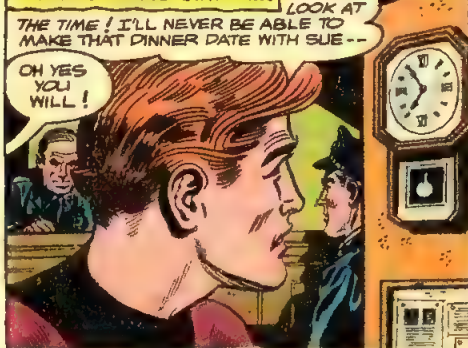
WITH OUR
HANDS
TIED?



AFTER THE GANG HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION...

LOOK AT THE TIME! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT DINNER DATE WITH SUE--

OH YES YOU WILL!



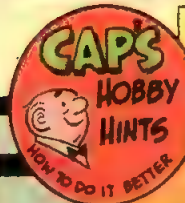
3-SUE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M A VERY FORESIGHTED WIFE, REMEMBER? I FIGURED YOU'D SHOW UP HERE SOONER OR LATER AND SO DECIDED TO MEET YOU--WITH YOUR EVENING CLOTHES!



I'VE HAD MY HEART--AND STOMACH--SET ON KEEPING THAT HARD-TO-GET DINNER RESERVATION--AND I'M MAKING SURE NOTHING INTERFERES!

WHAT A WIFE!



KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS, 575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

THANKS TO--GARY MILLER BELLEVILLE, ILL.

I'LL ASK MR. CAP FOR ADVICE.

MR. CAP, THE SCREW HOLES ON MY HO CARS ARE STRIPPED AND THE CHASSIS KEEPS COMING APART. WHAT CAN I DO?

APRIL HOBBY MONTH

TIME OUT FOR A HOBBY

ALL WE DO IS PUT A DROP OF AIRPLANE GLUE IN THE SCREW HOLE.

NOW, PUT THE SCREW BACK IN AS FAR AS IT WILL GO. ALLOW THE GLUE TO DRY, THEN CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SCREW. THE GLUE, WHILE DRYING, WILL HAVE MOLDED NEW GROOVES!

AGENCY BOOTH

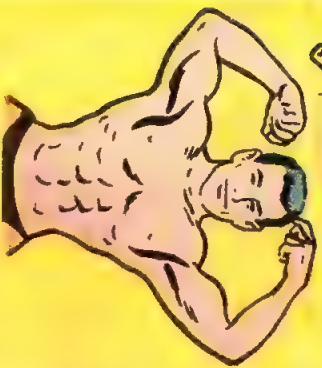
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CLIP OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

BOYS, MEN, BUILD, DEVELOP MIGHTY MUSCLES



**WATCH THOSE
MUSCLES GROW
AND BULGE!**



**WIN THE ADMIRATION
OF YOUR FRIENDS!**

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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE — EXTRA

DEAR EDITOR:

Ever since you set up that EXTRA letter column, I have felt a compulsive urge to write—and criticize. So here goes!

First, those doggone *utility belts* need redesigning! Even if you could convince me that a *batarang* could fit in those tiny pockets on that belt, and come out through those tinier openings at the tops of said pockets, you still could never be able to tell me how around 25 (I counted) different kinds of things could be in such a small number of compartments in a split second (what a long sentence!).

Next, what's with the criminals *Batman* faces? Honestly, you either give us mediocre super-foes (like *Eraser*), bad guys who could finish *Batman's* career in two seconds flat but don't (*Weather Wizard*), dumb two-bit thugs Aunt Harriet could beat with one arm tied behind her back (the idiots in "Bruce Wayne Unmasks *Batman*"). Leave the villain game to crooks worthy of fighting *Batman*. By now the standard crooks should have either fled *Gotham City* or have joined a top criminal's gang. I've already named in a previous letter which super-villains I like (*Joker*, *Penguin*, *Riddler*, *Outsider*, *Scarecrow*, *Cluemaster* and the *Weather Wiz*—if he sticks to fighting *Flash*), so now I'll name my favorite non-super-criminals:

The *Phantom General* was superb with his military strategy-style crimes, but if he had worn that flashy uniform of his all through the story he'd probably have been considered a super-villain.

Johnny Witts was the smartest of all *B&R's* foes and deserves a rematch.

Roy Reynolds was good with his philosophy and getaway gimmicks, but *Cluemaster* has the same thing going for him—and uses his "*Batman is invincible*" thinking, and his weapons much more effectively.

Now, some reader suggested that you give *Batman* more romance in his stories. For heaven's sake! Does every single (pun) super-hero have to have a beautiful girl friend to always be rescuing from the big, bad villain? NO!

Finally, unless the *hot-line* works somewhat like a phone-in on one's car-wireless, *MAD* magazine did have a point when it stated anyone could find *B&R's* secret identities by following the wire from Commissioner Gordon's *hot-line* phone (I think that's what they said—oh, well, that's the way the *Bat-cave* crumbles!).

—Peter Sanderson, Jr., E. Milton, Mass.

DEAR EDITOR:

I'd like to take time out of the usual type of fan letter to clear up a situation I term the "*Bat-Name-Game*." For almost 30 years a couple of characters in the *Batman* comics have gone without names. These men are Alfred the butler and Commissioner Gordon. Alfred lacks a last name, while Gordon is without a first. Being much disturbed with this terrible problem I set to work to solve it and am writing to you to see if you agree with my names.

I started with Alfred. I wanted to give him a last name that was distinguished, but not as dynamic as *Bruce Wayne*. I wanted a name to fit this character. Therefore I chose the obvious; *Butler*! What better name for a butler could there be than Alfred Butler?

Unfortunately I could not use the same gimmick for Gordon. "*Commissioner*" is not a very common name and the title "*Commissioner Commissioner Gordon*" is somewhat of a tongue twister. I also felt that Gordon should have a familiar name so I thought I would name him "*Robert*" in honor of *Batman's* creator, Robert "Bob" Kane.

Well, what do you think? Did I score a high mark in the game? —Jack C. Harris, Wilmington, Del. (High, indeed! Actually, we have a pet theory of our own about the missing names. Wouldn't it be curiously coincidental if Alfred's last name were Gordon, and Gordon's first name were Alfred? Then they'd both be named *Alfred Gordon*!—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

With your permission, I'd like to present my "Ten Commandments of Comic-Writing":

I. You are my fans, my bread-and-butter. I shall give you what you want, not what I want.

II. I honor your opinions and criticisms.

III. I shall not covet my rivals' plots; steal ideas; or create "poor man's versions" of their best characters and villains—even though they may sell.

IV. Remember the deadline to meet it.

V. I shall not trouble my artist to give him scenes and dialogue too difficult to illustrate. But I shall always try to complement what I know to be his best style.

VI. Action is slave to plot and character. Never should a story be created for love of action alone—for such is the way of those quite bereft of talent.

VII. Never shall I force my readers to accept anything a departure from the run of my story unless I have given them cause, no matter how slight, to expect a surprise.

VIII. I shall never continue or repeat anything proven to be offensive to or unpopular with most of my readers.—but anything I have begun, I shall end—logically!

IX. Love is a necessary "evil." Start no love affair you have no intention of ending, whether happily or tragically. During its course, keep it tasteful; keep it romantic; and above all, keep it "love."

X. He who would write for people to read must love people. If you would be one of these, let your love for people show in everything your characters do and speak and think; in the plots of your stories; and, if there is to be action, in every gesture and movement.

—Drury Moroz, Joliet, Ill.

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THE **BATTLE** THAT **ROCKS** THE UNIVERSE!

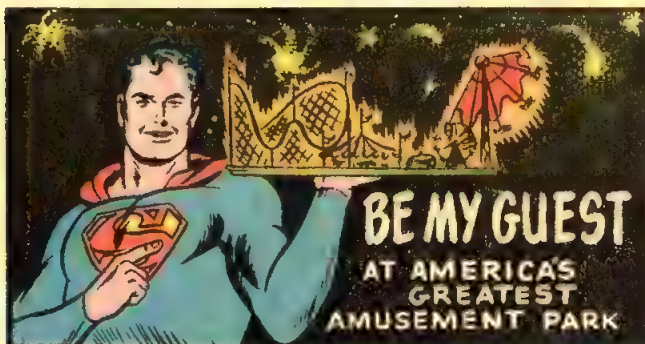
FOR THE **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN**
HAS AT LAST MET HIS MATCH IN THE
SCARLET SPEEDSTER, NOW
TURNED INTO A **GHASTLY PHANTOM FOE!**

WHO
WILL
COME
OUT
ALIVE?
THE
SPECTRE
OR
THE **FLASH?**

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Hurry, hurry, hurry! Read this page of powerful predictions of popular publications produced by DC! Find out what fabulous fiction, fraught with fascinating features, will be awaiting you at your neighborhood newsstand! In other words, if you latch onto the latest DC mags, you'll be doing yourself a favor.

What are the secret identities of SUPERMAN and BATMAN? If you said CLARK KENT and BRUCE WAYNE, you're wrong—at least, in the fantastic IMAGINARY NOVEL featured in the June issue of **WORLD'S FINEST**, No. 167! Besides a different SUPERMAN and a new BATMAN, you'll see SUPER-GIRL, BRAINIAC and the TOYMAN—on Apr. 25!

Germany's famed AFRIKA CORPS practically stops the whole war to hunt down SGT. ROCK and the combat-happy Joes of EASY COMPANY in a **WORLD WAR II** smasher—“THE DESERT RATS OF EASY!” You'll find thrills as thick as the sands of the SAHARA in the July **OUR ARMY AT WAR**, No. 182, on sale May 2.

The terrible THUNDER-MAN is on the loose again! Freed by his harrowing helpmate, THE HOOD, he vows to even the score with the rip-roaring RANGERS who imprisoned him! In the August **TOMAHAWK**, featuring “VENGEANCE OF THE DEVIL-DOGS,” he unleashes his fanged pack on his sworn enemies! No. 111, on sale May 2.

Who is the grotesque giant that fights AQUAMAN for the love of MERA, his wife? Where was he spawned, this monstrous being, this fearful image of the SEA KING, who churns up the very oceans with his wrath? He is “AQUABEAST THE ABOMINABLE,” bursting out of the pages of the August issue, No. 34, on sale May 2.

A stranger bursts into the **DAILY PLANET** office and reveals that CLARK KENT is SUPERMAN! But wait . . . it seems the timid reporter ISN'T actually the MAN OF STEEL, after all . . . for the stranger discloses that HE HIMSELF is “THE REAL CLARK KENT!” So begins SUPERMAN'S weirdest adventure. July, No. 198, on sale May 4.

Who'll be the first man to reach another planet? We don't know, but we DO know the first overgrown kid who'll do it. His initials are J.L. No, not JACK LEMMON, the actor, or JOHN LENNON, the BEATLE. Give up? It's JERRY LEWIS, who becomes “JERRY THE ASTRO-NUT,” in his August issue, No. 101, which hits the stands May 9.

Another star collection of **BATMAN** and **ROBIN'S** most bizarre action roles appears in the August **80 PAGE GIANT**, No. 193 (G37). Six thrillers, including “RIDE, BAT-HOMBRE, RIDE,” “MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE,” “THE FLYING BATMAN,” “HIS MAJESTY, KING BATMAN,” “THE AMORED BATMAN,” and a complete newspaper syndicated story, on sale May-9.

The **MIGHTY AMAZON'S** most dangerous enemy is also her most diminutive, and he taunts her every move in—“MENACE OF THE MOUSE MAN!” Plus an extra-special feature . . . the startling—“TERROR TRAP OF THE DEMON MAN-FISH!” That's TWO frightening foes for **WONDER WOMAN** in her August issue, No. 171, on sale May 4.



Can you imagine **LOIS LANE** as the ruthless head of a military dictatorship in a banana republic? And **SUPERMAN** acting as her right-hand man? It's true . . . as you'll learn when the **MAN OF STEEL** becomes a one-man **FIRING SQUAD** to mow down freedom-loving rebels! July issue, No. 75, on sale May 11.

The **NEW BLACKHAWK ERA** wings your way once more, as the **MAGNIFICENT 7** match their prowess against “THE TERRIBLE TWINS!” It's a wild adventure of international intrigue, spiced by the **BLACKHAWKS'** battle with two of the most formidable foes they've ever faced. You'll meet them in the July issue, No. 234, on sale May 11.

132

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WHICH OF MY 181,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

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OF SHAPELY MIGHTY
MUSCLES**



says JOHN SILL
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**"I LOST 30 LBS.
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UGLY FAT
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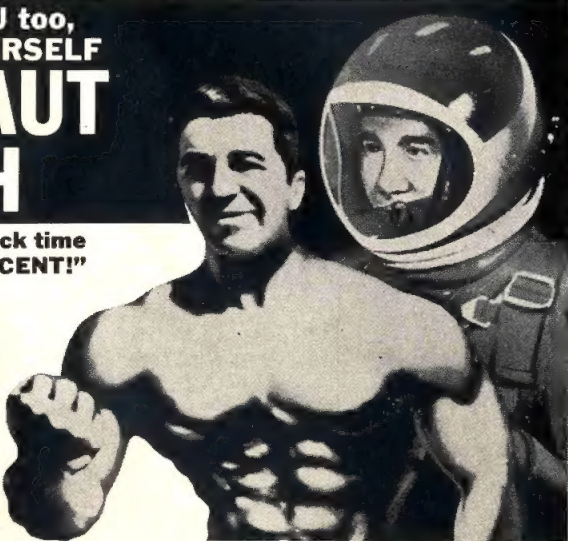
says Felipe Mendez
Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU?
"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago." Look at him NOW! Give him MY MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm! No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

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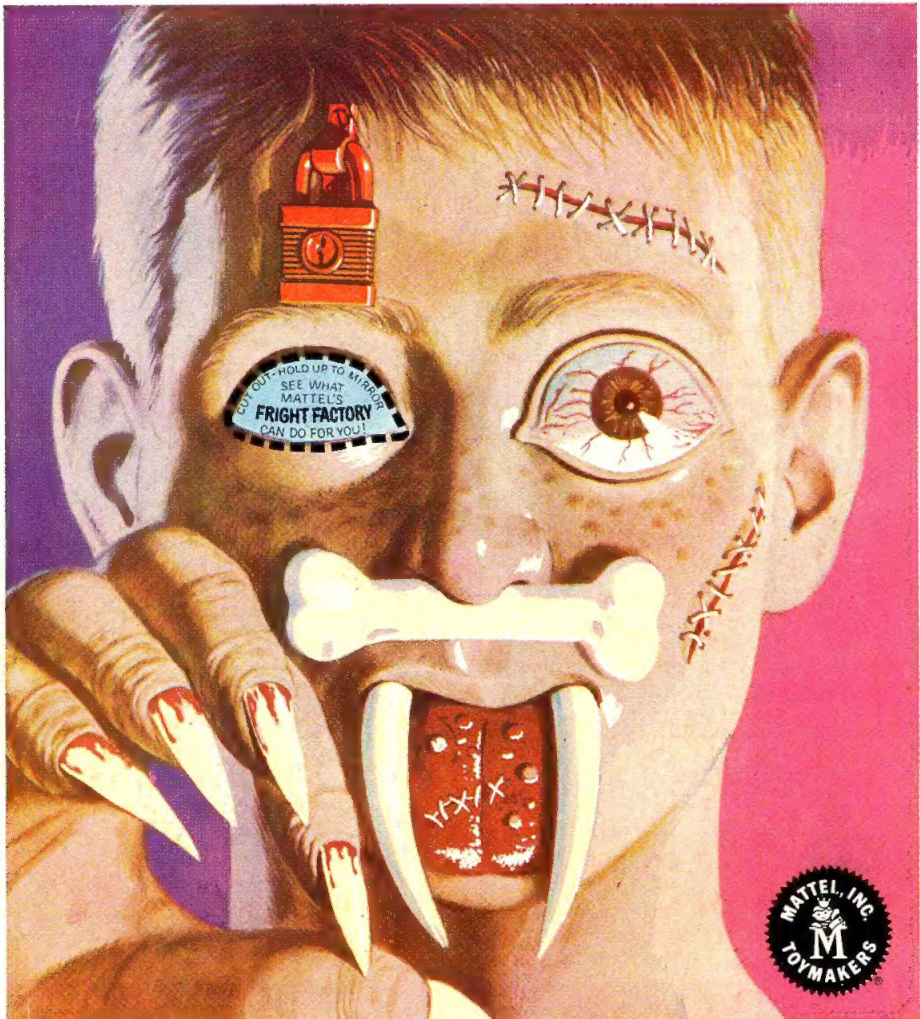
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